

Provisional Application Serial No. 60/297,971 filed on June 13, 2001. Accordingly, at best, Dziver is an effective reference as of June 13, 2001.

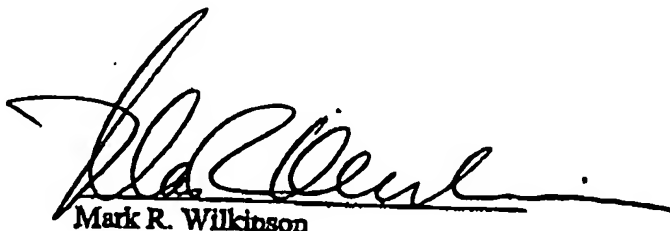
5. My invention, as described in the application and claimed in claims 1-3, 5-9 and 12-17, was reduced to practice in this country prior to June 13, 2001.

6. Attached hereto are three drawings showing my reduction to practice prepared prior to June 13, 2001. Exhibit A shows a bearing with packing behind it. Exhibit B shows an O-ring mounted bearing for use with a mechanical seal. Exhibit C shows a bearing with integral lantern ring groove, packing behind it. I prepared these drawings and specimen bearing prior to June 13, 2001.

7. Based on this showing, it is respectfully submitted that in view of my reduction to practice of the invention in claims 1-3, 5-9 and 12-17 in this country prior to June 13, 2001, Dziver should be withdrawn as a reference and these claims should be allowed.

8. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: May //, 2004
Easthampton, Massachusetts



Mark R. Wilkinson